

**AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A process for the decomposition of N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> comprising: decomposing N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> at a temperature of between 700 and 1 000°C and at a HSV of more than ~~about~~50,000 h<sup>-1</sup> in the presence of a catalyst that comprises a mixed oxide of zirconium and of cerium predominantly existing in the form of a solid solution.
2. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst exhibits an effective specific surface of greater than 25 m<sup>2</sup>/g.
3. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ZrO<sub>2</sub>/CeO<sub>2</sub> ratio by weight in the catalyst is between 80/20 and 20/80.
4. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst also comprises yttrium.
5. (currently amended): The process as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the catalyst has a specific surface of between 60 and 150 m<sup>2</sup>/g when fresh.
6. (currently amended): A process for the decomposition to N<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> of N<sub>2</sub>O present in the effluent from a unit for the production of nitric acid, comprising: decomposing N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> with a catalyst that comprises a mixed oxide of zirconium and of cerium in the form of a solid solution that is positioned under at least one platinum gauze of the reactor for the oxidation of ammonia, wherein the decomposition is carried out at a temperature of between 700°C and 1000°C and at a HSV of more than ~~about~~50,000 h<sup>-1</sup>.
7. (currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ZrO<sub>2</sub>/CeO<sub>2</sub> ratio by weight in the catalyst is between 70/30 and 30/70.